



December 13, 2010

Press Section

American Embassy

Tel Aviv

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Remarks by Special Envoy George Mitchell
Before Meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu**

**Jerusalem
Monday, December 13, 2010**

SEN. MITCHELL: Thanks you Mr. Prime Minister. I appreciate your comments and as always look forward to working with you. In their direct talks, both sides decided together to pursue a framework agreement that would establish the fundamental compromises on all permanent status issues and pave the way for a final peace treaty. That remains our goal.

As Secretary of State Clinton said on Friday, and I quote: "Reaching this goal will not be easy by any means. The differences between the two sides are real and they are persistent. But the way to get there is by engaging, in good faith, with the full complexities of the core issues and by working to narrow the gaps between the two.

By doing this, the parties can begin to rebuild confidence, demonstrate their seriousness, and hopefully find enough common ground on which to eventually re-launch direct negotiations and achieve that framework.

The parties have indicated that they want the United States to continue its efforts. And in the days ahead, our discussions with both sides will be substantive two-way conversations with an eye toward making real progress in the next few months on the key questions of an eventual framework agreement.

Thank you.

###

Public Affairs Section

Migdalor Building, 1 Ben Yehuda Street, Tel Aviv

Tel: (03) 5103822, Fax: (03) 5103828

Email: io@pd.state.gov